

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2, as follows:

-- CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/608,062 filed June 29, 2000, now pending, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/544,525, filed April 6, 2000, now pending, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/142,338 filed July 2, 1999; which applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 14, as follows:

Figure 3 is a sequence alignment showing sequence similarity between DSP-3 and other MAP-kinase phosphatases (SEQ ID NOS: 11-19).